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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
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SUBJECT Views of Minister Kopecky

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In a 60 minute interview Minister Vaclav Kopecky (Minister of Information) expressed his views on different political topics. So far as possible Mr. Kopecky's own words have been submitted here in translation.

1. Relations with the National Socialist Party. Speaking about the cooperation of all four parties in the Government Mr. Kopecky said of the National Socialists "this bourgeois party is lately playing with fire. You just have to read their papers like Svobodne Slovo to see how demagogic they are. On top, their leaders always stress their loyalty to every decision taken in the Government, in many they want to be the initiators, but just look how on the lower echelon-- and on the directive of the same "loyal top men, they try to disrupt the established unity and every progress we make. They are the most cunning enemies and you never know what they are up to. In this respect, I prefer the open fight put up by the People's Party. Their officials talk in the Government the same way their papers do. Everybody knows where they stand."
2. The Difficulties in the Communist Party. In speaking of the political consciousness of the masses Kopecky again admitted the "terrible pressure from the masses to go definitely and without compromise to the Left." Kopecky's forecast was that since the Constitution will be prepared by the Parliament instead of by the Government as the Communists wanted, the "discussion will be much more in front of the public and you will see how the masses are going to force Parliament to have the constitution express progressive thinking of the masses. What can those Bourgeois do when labor will go out in the streets and demand certain things in the constitution?"

"We in our party have to assure a base for cooperation also with those elements within our party which want us to remain the 'Revolutionary' force and who always compare us to the leading parties in Yugoslavia or Poland. Certainly it would be better if we would have only a single party system here; we could achieve much more and without having to be held up by the others all the time. But that is impossible in this country and the only way is by compromising with the other three parties. That, everybody, even our Left circles, will have to understand."

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3. Possible Changes in the Electorate. Mr. Kopecky elaborated on hopes expressed by some Right party officials that elections now would show a trend favorable to the Right and admitted that the only party which would gain to a greater extent would be the Social Democratic Party "but on the back of the National Socialists, I am sure." He stressed that his party would not lose strength but rather that it probably would register a gain. The difficulties in the People's Party would certainly lead to losses there, and here are many indications that among the population there is disgust with the National Socialists. "Any new elections would only lead to a strengthening of the Left and a weakening of the Right."

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